

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| In re Patent Application of: | ) |                              |
|                              | ) |                              |
| J. Donald HILL <u>et al.</u> | ) | Examiner: Darwin P. EREZO    |
|                              | ) |                              |
| Application No.: 10/715,826  | ) | Group Art Unit: 3773         |
|                              | ) |                              |
| Filed: November 19, 2003     | ) | <b>Confirmation No. 3645</b> |
|                              | ) |                              |
| For: METHODS, SYSTEMS, AND   | ) |                              |
| APPARATUS FOR PERFORMING     | ) |                              |
| MINIMALLY INVASIVE           | ) |                              |
| CORONARY ARTERY BYPASS       | ) |                              |
| GRAFT SURGERY                | ) |                              |

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND  
REQUEST FOR ONE-MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME TO RESPOND

Commissioner of Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Election of Species Requirement, of which the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office ("PTO") notified Applicants on June 4, 2008, the period for response being extended until and including August 4, 2008 by the attached Request for a One-Month Extension of Time to Respond, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the above-captioned patent application in view of the following:

**Request for One-Month Extension of Time to Respond** begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Response to Election of Species Requirement** begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Conclusion** begins on page 5 of this paper.